

# Stories for Education: Living with Death

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### How to use the animated training film

This short film (available at [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk)) has been produced to help individuals consider the emotional impact of caring for people at the end of their life, especially if there are treatment options which may not be appropriate. It will be particularly useful for doctors in training but may also have relevance to other health and social care professionals. The film was developed based upon feedback from doctors' experiences.

#### If you are using this resource in small group teaching the following questions may be useful to open up a conversation and aid learning:

*What did you notice about how you felt during the film?*

*Have you been in a similar situation yourself? If so, would you be willing to share your experience with the group?*

*Why do you think the doctor was struggling with the patient's decision? Whose needs were being met?*

*What are your impressions of the junior doctor's values and how might these differ from the patient's?*

*Where or from whom could you seek help in these situations or support afterwards? And, how might talking about this situation afterwards impact on how the doctor felt?*

*How might the conversation have been different if it was the doctor who didn't feel the treatment was appropriate rather than the patient declining it?*

#### Please note:

- The film is not designed to be an instructional guide or to necessarily provide a gold standard example of clinical care in a situation such as this. Therefore, there may be themes or certain aspects of care/ teamworking that are not depicted.
- The questions above are simply a guide to encourage dialogue and learning. It is important to point out that each case is individual and that conversations will be different depending upon the patient and those important to them, as well as the medical team.
- When using the film, please ensure that you consider your own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those who are going to be watching the animation, discussing its themes or related real life clinical situations. This may include the need for you to seek and/ or encourage others to seek appropriate support.

For more information/ any queries please contact [supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

**1** Discussing death, dying and bereavement can be difficult for everyone.

**2** In a busy clinical environment, initiating investigations and actively treating can sometimes be the easiest/ default option.

**3** It can be very upsetting to know that your patient will die, especially if they are choosing not to have further treatment.

**4** What's most important is what matters to the patient and those important to them.

**5** Ask for guidance, advice and support. Look after yourself and your colleagues; talk about how you feel.

Please visit [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk) to watch a short animated film on this topic and for other educational resources on death, dying and bereavement for health and social care professionals